



A gathering of the Texas Association of Black City Council Members was held in the new City Council Chambers in Forest Hill on January 16 with area officials in attendance for the luncheon meeting.

## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) set up at Community Center

Free tax preparation for families with an annual income of \$50,900 or less will be available in January in Forest Hill. Statewide, one in four Texas residents did not claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) last year. Since 2008, between \$80- \$90 million of EITC rightfully owed to Tarrant County residents has gone unclaimed.

Reports indicate approximately \$300 in out-of-pocket savings per family that utilizes VITA rather than a commercial tax preparer with approximately \$2 returned to the local economy for each \$1 received in EITC!

The VITA sites offer high quality tax preparation services and all sites are IRS certified as well as the staff and volunteers. Free Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs), amending tax returns, and extensions on returns are available.

Tax preparation will be available from January 15 through April 14 in Forest Hill on Mondays and Thursdays, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, 6800 Forest Hill Drive.

More information is available by calling 211.

## City looking for a few good men and women!

Forest Hill Committees, Commissions and Boards are comprised of citizens who volunteer their time and energy to set the direction of the City's future.

Volunteers are needed to serve on boards and committees. Residents are encouraged to become active in local government. There are different requirements for each seat, and when you join one of these groups, you can work with your fellow City of Forest Hill neighbors to find new ways to make life better for everyone who

lives in the City.

The Boards include:

- Planning & Zoning Commission
- Zoning Board of Adjustment
- Celebration Committee
- Parks/Clean City Committee

For more information on City of Forest Hill Boards, Commissions or Committees, please call City Hall at 817-568-3000.

## Local artist Burl Washington Black Art Collection on Display at City Hall



Paintings and prints commemorating the contributions of African-Americans in both western and military subjects by noted local artist Burl Washington are now on view at the Forest Hill City Hall, 3219 California Parkway. The collection will remain there for viewing until February 28 when a reception will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Forest Hill Public Library, 6962 Forest Hill Drive.

## Senior Center Valentine Party will be fun for all



The Forest Hill Senior Center, 7004 Forest Hill Drive, will have a Valentine Party on Monday, February 14 starting at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited to come for lunch, but, reservations are necessary. There will be fun and games and,

of course, a king and queen. Join the fun event by calling 817-293-8319.



# City Council receives reports from boards and committees

## Special City Council Meeting – December 28, 2010

The Forest Hill City Council held a special council meeting at 7:00 p.m., in the City of Forest Hill Building, 3219 California Parkway, on Tuesday, December 28 with all members present except Mayor James Gosey who is on suspension.

• The Council with the City Attorney and City Manager immediately convened into executive session and returned a short time later to enact business. Council Member Gerald Joubert made a motion, seconded by Council Member Lyndia Thomas to hire the law firm of Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith to represent them in the lawsuit: James Gosey vs. City of Forest Hill, Texas, the City Council of Forest Hill, Texas, the City of Forest Hill, Texas, Lyndia Thomas, Damian Dalcour, Gerald Joubert, Mustafa Sami. The motion was approved in a split vote with Mayor Pro Tem Masimini voting nay.

## Regular City Council Meeting – January 4, 2011

The Forest Hill City Council held a regular council meeting at 7:00 p.m., in the City of Forest Hill Building, 3219 California Parkway, on Tuesday, January 4, with Council Members Lyndia Thomas and Gerald Joubert absent along with Mayor James Gosey who is on suspension. No workshop was held at 6 p.m. due to lack of a quorum.

- Following opening ceremonies Jimmie Sanders and Loretta Muldrew spoke during Citizen Presentations.
- An item dealing with appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustments was tabled.
- An item dealing with IT issues was pulled by Mayor Pro Tem Masimini.
- A Council Workshop was unanimously set for January 22, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a facilitator to conduct the meeting.
- An item about establishing a cultural arts district was pulled from the agenda.
- No executive session was held and the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

## City Council Meeting – January 19, 2011

The Forest Hill City Council held a regular council meeting at 7:00 p.m., in the City of Forest Hill Building, 3219 California Parkway, on Tuesday, January 19, with Mayor James Gosey, who is on suspension, not attending. A brief workshop was held at 6 p.m.

- Following opening ceremonies, a video presentation honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was viewed.
- A proclamation was presented to Shirley Fowkes outlining her years of service to the city in many capacities.
- Employees of the Year were honored by the Council from each department including Cecile Yancey from Public Works – overall Employee of the Year, Robert Chapman (retired) from the Fire Department, Janis Humphrey from the Police Department and Municipal Court Clerk Bob-

bie Spence from City Hall. Also honored was Alicia Driver from the Forest Hill Public Library.

- The City Manager’s Report included:
  - Annual audit to be discussed at February 1 meeting.
  - Five of 14 homes from the Forest Hill Home Rehabilitation Program now complete.

– Update on Griggs Park grant from Texas Wildlife – problem with evaluation of three acres of land to be donated and lack of deed for the property means that State will reevaluate the eligibility for grant. (Land listed at value of \$360,000; appraised for only \$32,000.)

Boards and Commissions reports included:

- Planning and Zoning – Berniece Taylor-Johnson
- Civil Service Commission – nothing to report
- Parks and Clean City Commission – written report from Pearl Jones
- Zoning Board of Adjustment – Chairman Clara Faulkner asked for information
- Celebration Committee – group presented party kits to the Council plus an annual calendar of city events.

Library Board – Jerline Harvey reported they have 23 computers and three laptops and many programs in place.

- Loretta Muldrew spoke during citizen presentations.
- The minutes of January 4, 2011 City Council Meeting were unanimously approved under the consent agenda.
- In a split vote, the Council voted not to authorize an investigation into the allegation of sexual harassment against Council

Member Damian Dalcour. Voting to authorize the investigation were Dalcour and Thomas. Voting against the authorization were Joubert, Masimini, Sanders and Sami.

- In another split vote, following an apology by Council Member Mustafa Sami, the Council voted not to suspend Sami for allegations of unethical conduct (credit card abuse). Voting for the suspension were Dalcour, Thomas and Sanders with Joubert, Masimini and Sami voting nay, thus a 3-3 tie. (The Charter requires four votes to approve any action.)
- An item dealing with the audit was pulled after a lengthy discussion.
- An item dealing with possible appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment was pulled.
- Dr. Armando Villareal was unanimously approved as an appointment to the Parks and Clean City Committee.
- The Council met in executive session to discuss several items dealing with the city manager and city secretary.

*Minutes have not yet been approved by the City Council and are subject to corrections. Any changes made will be noted in the next month’s news. Minutes and other information are available at [www.foresthilltx.org](http://www.foresthilltx.org).*



City Council recognizes Departmental Employees of the Year and overall Employee of the Year: Cecile Yancey, Public Works Supervisor Roberto Duenes, Fire Chief Ed Henderson, Robert Chapman, Mayor Pro Tem Dulani Masimini, Police Chief Robert Herbert, Janis Humphrey, City Manager Sheyi Ipaye and Court Clerk Bobbie Spence.



(Left) Library Board Members Bonnie Wakefield and Charlotte Hogan-Price, Librarian Daniel Berdner, Children’s Librarian Alicia Driver and her mother, Donna Driver.

## Big events on tap for Black History Month

The Forest Hill Public Library will culminate Black History Month with a celebration on Saturday, February 26, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Community Room.

Local saxophonist, composer, arranger and educator Quamon Fowler will perform gospel, groove and Texas soul music with his theme – “Inspiring Others to Obtain Success Through their Passion.”

The Library’s “Meet the Author” series will include 91-year-old Reby Cary, with his latest release, “Where the Best Begins.”

Also featured will be Louise Hicks, author of “A Hill to Climb,” giving tips on how to publish plus author/minister Tomeca Richardson, a noted inspirational speaker, with a theme of, “Hoochie to Holy.”

A display of renowned artist Burl Washington’s western and Buffalo Soldier artwork is presently on display at City Hall and will move to the Library in February culminating with a reception on February 26 at the Library, 6962 Forest Hill Drive.

For more information on Library activities, call 817-551-5354.

## Free income tax help available at Center

Free income tax preparation is available to all senior citizens and low income families each **Tuesday** continuing through mid-April from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Forest Hill Senior Citizen Center, 7004 Forest Hill Drive. Participants are reminded to bring all paperwork, especially their Social Security cards to ensure accuracy. **Appointments are necessary** and are available by calling Center Director Bettie Sheffield at 817-293-8319.

## Forest Hill News Your City Newspaper

Director of Production  
& Advertising....**Jill Darden**

Editor.....**Shirley Fowkes**

**Keeping You Informed & Connected!**

## Cleaner Curbs & Cleaner Creeks for a Healthier Home

### Prevent storm water pollution at home:



- Never sweep or dump anything down storm drains.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Pick up after your pet.
- Dispose of antifreeze, paints, and other household chemicals at an HHW center.
- Dispose used oil and oil filters at recycling facilities or at a designated collection center.
- Check your car for leaks and recycle motor oil.
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.



[www.dfwstormwater.com](http://www.dfwstormwater.com)



## Brush Collection Reminder

Brush collection has been going smoothly with much debris being picked up within hours of being placed on the curb. As a reminder, residents on the north side of Interstate 20 have brush picked up the first and third weeks of the month. Residents on the south side of the interstate will be scheduled for the second and fourth weeks of the month.



What's considered "brush?" Tree branches and trimmings that do not exceed 14 feet in length and one hundred (100) pounds in weight and wood fencing. Remember, construction and remodeling materials are NOT included in this service. Brush service is a special pickup and will not be picked up with regular trash. Loose materials should be boxed or bagged.

Residents are reminded that brush should only be placed on your own property – not on a neighbor's yard or on a vacant lot.

Brush must be placed within five (5) feet of the curb (or your property line if no curb exists) no earlier than 7 a.m. Sunday morning and no later than 7 a.m. Monday morning to ensure your items will be picked up.

If you have any questions, please call IESI at 817-222-2221.



Work on a major water line project is winding down in Forest Hill. The contract for the 36th year Community Development Block Grant, Forest Hill Water Line Project for Cardinal Ridge in the sum of \$115,183.50 to S.H.U.C. was awarded on October 12.

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### Now Open in Forest Hill

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- Laundry Facility
- In Room Coffee Maker, Hair Dryer, Ironing Board
- Complimentary Local Phone Calls
- Suite room with refrigerator/microwave
- Express Check-Out

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Flowers,  
Chocolates



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## Watering restrictions – even in winter months

No lawn or landscaping watering or irrigating is permitted between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., even during the cold winter months.

Hand watering or using soaker hoses is permitted. Hand watering is allowed while you are standing in your yard with a hose or watering can. Hoses connected to sprinklers or hoses left open-ended are not allowed during the restricted hours.

Use water wisely. Conservation is the key to a plentiful supply in the future. For more information about watering restrictions, call the Code Compliance officer at 817-806-4701.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★  
**To Place an Ad in the newspaper for your church, business or event, Call 817-729-6491**

Forest Hill News is published each month and provided to Forest Hill residents. The Forest Hill News publishes community news but reserves the right to refuse or edit advertising and editorial copy. Articles appearing in the Forest Hill News are the sole responsibility of the City of Forest Hill and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the publishers. The publishers are not held liable for any incident which may result from use or misuse of the information.



## Ask the Doctor

**Stephanie Menes, M.D.**  
Forest Hill Medical Clinic

### Does eating too much sugar cause diabetes?

No, but that's a common misunderstanding since diabetes is associated with high blood sugar levels. Obesity, genetics, and other lifestyle factors cause Type 2 diabetes.

Diabetes is a serious illness, and nearly 11% of American adults suffer from it. If you are experiencing fatigue, frequent urination, excessive thirst, or slow-healing infections, see your physician.

Dr. Menes is your community physician for illnesses, physicals and management of chronic diseases including diabetes. Same day appointments are usually available.

**Forest Hill Medical Clinic**  
6619 Forest Hill Drive, Suite 30  
**817-563-6985**



## FREE Pregnancy Testing Center

6609 Forest Hill Drive  
Forest Hill, TX 76140

Monday – Friday  
8:00 am– 4:30 pm

**817-561-2261**



**FREE Pregnancy Testing (No Waiting)**  
Find out your results in minutes. It's quick, easy, free and confidential.

**FREE Physician Referral**  
We will set you up with an appointment to see a physician.

**FREE Medicaid Application Assistance**  
Think you qualify for healthcare under Medicaid? Get help with application paperwork. Our staff is here to assist you – free of charge.

**FREE Childbirth Education**  
We offer free childbirth education. Please visit us or call us for more information.

The Pregnancy Testing Center is located in the Forest Hill Shopping Center, where Dollar General & Dollar Tree are located.

## Community Calendar February 2011

All meetings are subject to change. Look for agenda postings in front of City Hall prior to scheduled public meetings. City info available: [www.foresthilltx.org](http://www.foresthilltx.org).

**February 1**  
City Council Workshop and Meeting - 6 p.m. – New City Hall.

**February 2**  
Senior Center Council Meeting, 9 a.m. at the Center. *The Forest Hill News* arrives at your door.

**February 3**  
Senior Birthday Party for those with February birthdays.

**February 4**  
Senior Center Food Day for regular attendees.

**February 7**  
Blood pressure checks & BINGO – Senior Center - 9:30 a.m.  
Historical Commission Meeting, 10 a.m. – Library.  
Interested persons invited.  
Planning & Zoning Commission, 6 p.m., at the City Hall.

**February 9**  
Senior Center Craft Class -10 am

**February 14**  
Blood pressure checks & BINGO – Senior Center— 9:30 a.m. followed by annual Valentine Party.  
Parks & Clean City Commission Meeting - 6 p.m. – New City Hall.  
Police Alumni Association Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - Police Station.  
Friends of the Library Meeting - 7 p.m., - Library. Info: 817-551-5354.

**February 15**  
City Council Workshop and Meeting - 6 p.m. – New City Hall.

**February 21**  
Blood pressure checks & BINGO – Senior Center - 9:30 a.m.  
Community Development Corporation Meeting - 7 p.m. – New City Hall.

**February 28**  
Blood pressure checks & BINGO – Senior Center - 9:30 a.m.  
Library Board Meeting - Library. Info: 817-551-5354.

**March 1**  
City Council Workshop and Meeting - 6 p.m. – New City Hall.

**March 2**  
Senior Center Council Meeting, 9 a.m. at the Center. *The Forest Hill News* arrives at your door.

**Neighborhood Watch:**  
Neighborhood Watch Meeting is held on the first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., Church of Christ in Forest Hill, 3916 Forest Hill Circle. Info: 817-988-3360.

**Library Happenings, Information: 817-551-5354**  
ESL Classes, Tuesday & Thursdays, 6-7 p.m., at the Library.  
Chess Club, Thursdays, 4-6 p.m. at the Library.  
'Tween & Teen Nite at the Library, Thursdays, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.  
Driving Safety Classes – Info: 817-293-0823.  
Check out the new website: [www.foresthillpubliclibrary.org](http://www.foresthillpubliclibrary.org).